

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH: EVALUATING THE COST EFFECTIVENESS OF A SURGICAL REHABILITATION HOSPITAL IN CAMBODIA

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Introduction: According the World Health Organization, despite marked progress, Cambodia ranks 73rd out of 78 developing countries, with one of the lowest Human Development Index rankings (137 out of 174 globally in 1999), and the health status of the people among the lowest in Asia. Setting healthcare priorities in this environment with few resources is an exceptional challenge. Several medical conditions can be addressed with surgical services in unsophisticated hospital facilities. It has generally been assumed that the cost effectiveness of surgical services is much less effective than preventative or educational programs; however, there is a paucity of data regarding the cost of surgical care. The objective of this research is to evaluate the cost effectiveness of the operations carried out at the Children's Surgical Centre (CSC), a rehabilitation hospital in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Methods: In June and July 2006, data was collected on every patient undergoing surgery at the CSC. Various formulas are being evaluated to determine the appropriate method for calculating Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) that would be averted due to the operations. The operating costs of running the hospital over these two months will then be divided by the sum of DALYs saved to come up with an indicator of cost effectiveness.

Hypothesis: The provision of surgical services is cost effective and a reasonable option in resource-limited developing world healthcare systems.

Results: Analysis in progress.

Conclusion: Analysis in progress.

